

**The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company**

PCT#

**Akron, Ohio 44316-0001**

PATENT AND TRADEMARK DEPARTMENT

CABLE ADDRESS "GOODYEAR-AKRON" U.S.A. - TELEX 66-487 OR 64-0550

Our Ref: DN1996-221USA



May 4, 1999

EI697209904US

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Re: International Patent Application No PCT/US96/19055

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed herewith is the necessary documentation for entering the National Phase for the subject patent application.

The national phase will begin on or about May 27, 1999.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David E. Wheeler".

D E Wheeler, Patent Attorney  
Reg. No. 29,726

DEW:pp

Encls: Transmittal Letter Under 35 U.S.C. §371  
Declaration and Power of Attorney  
International Search Report (*w/references*)  
Amendments (*if any*)  
Information Disclosure Statement (*Form PTO-1449*)  
International Preliminary Examination Report  
Substitute Specification